

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A method for validating transaction requests from a plurality of clients to access a database, the method comprising the computer implemented steps of:
  - providing an interface to validate transaction requests to access a database, using a plurality of validation criteria, from said plurality of clients having different requirements for said validation criteria, said interface in a singleton in-memory object;
  - using said different requirements to ~~determine whether~~ to validate said transaction requests from said plurality of clients; [[and]]
    - transforming, by the data processing system, said transaction requests into a database command by generating said [[a]] database command that has a standard format in response to validated transaction requests, wherein said ~~standard format~~ database command is generated in response to a validated transaction request regardless of which one of said plurality of clients sent said validated transaction request[[.]];
    - said interface including;
    - said database command including a plurality of mandatory fields;
    - associating a first one of said plurality of validation criteria with one of said plurality of mandatory fields, wherein data that is received for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria is included in said one of a plurality of mandatory fields;
    - defining a first requirement for validating transaction requests from first ones of said plurality of clients using said first one of said plurality of validation criteria, said first requirement requiring data to be included in said transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria;
    - defining a second requirement for validating transaction requests from second ones of said plurality of clients using said first one of said plurality of validation criteria, said second requirement not requiring data to be included in said transaction requests from said second ones of said plurality of clients for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria;
    - in response to receiving a first transaction request from one of said first ones of said plurality of clients: validating said first transaction request if said first transaction request includes first data for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said first transaction request has been validated,

generating a database command that includes said first data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

in response to receiving a second transaction request from one of said second ones of said plurality of clients: validating said second transaction request regardless of whether said second transaction request includes second data for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; if said second transaction request does not include said second data, determining default data that has been specified for said second ones of said plurality of clients to use for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said second transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said default data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields; and

wherein said interface validates transaction requests from ones of said plurality of clients having different requirements for validating transaction requests.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], further comprising:

associating a second one of said plurality of validation criteria with a second one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

defining a third requirement for validating [[said]] transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients using said second one of said plurality of validation criteria, said third requirement not requiring data in said transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; and

in response to receiving said first transaction request: validating said first transaction request if said first transaction request includes said first data and regardless of whether said first transaction request includes second data for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; if said first transaction request does not include data for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria, determining second default data that has been specified for said first ones of said plurality of clients to use for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said first transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said first data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields and said second default data in said second one of said plurality of mandatory fields.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]], further including:

in response to receiving said first transaction request: generating an exception if said first transaction request does not include said first data, wherein said first transaction request is not validated.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the database command is a structured query language command, and wherein each one of said transaction requests is included in an extensible markup language document.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a data processing system comprising: a computer readable usable medium including instructions ~~computer usable program code~~ for validating transaction requests from a plurality of clients, said computer program product including: instructions ~~computer usable program code~~ for providing an interface to validate said transaction requests to access a database, using a plurality of validation criteria, from said plurality of clients having different requirements for said plurality of validation criteria, said interface in a singleton in-memory object; and

instructions ~~computer usable program code~~ for using said different requirements ~~to determine whether~~ to validate said transaction requests from said plurality of clients; and

instructions ~~computer usable program code~~ for transforming, by the data processing system, said transaction requests into a database command by generating said [[a]] database command that has a standard format in response to validated transaction requests, wherein said ~~standard format~~ database command is generated in response to a validated transaction request regardless of which one of said plurality of clients sent said validated transaction request[[.]];

said interface including:

said database command including a plurality of mandatory fields;

instructions for associating a first one of said plurality of validation criteria with one of a plurality of mandatory fields of said database command, wherein data that is received for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria is included in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

instructions for defining a first requirement for validating transaction requests from first ones of said plurality of clients using said first one of said plurality of validation criteria, said first requirement requiring data to be included in said transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria;

instructions for defining a second requirement for validating transaction requests from second ones of said plurality of clients using said first one of said plurality of validation criteria, said second requirement not requiring data to be included in said transaction requests from said second ones of said plurality of clients for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria;

in response to receiving a first transaction request from one of said first ones of said plurality of clients; instructions for validating said first transaction request if said first transaction request includes first data for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said first transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said first data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

in response to receiving a second transaction request from one of said second ones of said plurality of clients; instructions for validating said second transaction request regardless of whether said second transaction request includes second data for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; if said second transaction request does not include said second data, determining default data that has been specified for said second ones of said plurality of clients to use for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said second transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said default data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields; and

wherein said interface validates transaction requests from ones of said plurality of clients having different requirements for validating transaction requests.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 10 [[11]], further comprising:  
instructions ~~computer-usable program code~~ for associating a second one of said plurality of validation criteria with a second one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

instructions ~~computer-usable program code~~ for defining a third requirement for validating [[said]] transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients using said second one of said plurality of validation criteria, said third requirement not requiring data in said transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; and

in response to receiving said first transaction request: instructions ~~computer-usable program code~~ for validating said first transaction request if said first transaction request includes said first data and regardless of whether said first transaction request includes second data for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; if said first transaction request does not include data for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria, determining second default data that has been specified for said first ones of said plurality of clients to use for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said first transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said first data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields and said second default data in said second one of said plurality of mandatory fields.

13. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the database command is a structured query language command, and wherein each one of the transaction requests is an extensible markup language document.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A data processing system for validating transaction requests from a plurality of clients, comprising:

a memory that contains a set of instructions and a singleton in-memory object; and  
a processing unit, responsive to execution of the set of instructions, for:

providing an interface to validate transaction requests to access a database, using a plurality of validation criteria, from said plurality of clients having different requirements for said plurality of validation criteria, said interface in a singleton in-memory object;

using said different requirements to ~~determine whether to~~ validate said transaction requests from said plurality of clients; [[and]]

said data processing system transforming said transaction requests into a database command by generating said [[a]] database command that has a standard format in response to validated transaction requests, wherein said ~~standard format~~ database command is generated in response to a validated transaction request regardless of which one of said plurality of clients sent said validated transaction request[[.]];

said interface including:

said database command including a plurality of mandatory fields;

associating a first one of said plurality of validation criteria with one of said plurality of mandatory fields, wherein data that is received for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria is included in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

defining a first requirement for validating [[said]] transaction requests from first ones of said plurality of clients using said first one of said plurality of validation criteria, said first requirement requiring data to be included in said transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria;

defining a second requirement for validating [[said]] transaction requests from second ones of said plurality of clients using said first one of said plurality of validation criteria, said second requirement not requiring data to be included in said transaction requests from said second ones of said plurality of clients for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria;

in response to receiving a first transaction request from one of said first ones of said plurality of clients; validating said first transaction request if said first transaction request includes first data for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said first transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said first data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

in response to receiving a second transaction request from one of said second ones of said plurality of clients; validating said second transaction request regardless of whether said second transaction request includes second data for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; if said second transaction request does not include said second data, determining default data that has been specified for said second ones of said plurality of clients to use for said first one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said second transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said default data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields; and

wherein said interface validates transaction requests from ones of said plurality of clients having different requirements for validating transaction requests.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 15 [[16]], further comprising said processing unit, responsive to execution of the set of instructions, for:

associating a second one of said plurality of validation criteria with a second one of said plurality of mandatory fields;

defining a third requirement for validating [[said]] transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients using said second one of said plurality of validation criteria, said third requirement not requiring data in said transaction requests from said first ones of said plurality of clients for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; and

in response to receiving said first transaction request: validating said first transaction request if said first transaction request includes said first data and regardless of whether said first transaction request includes second data for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; if said first transaction request does not include data for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria, determining second default data that has been specified for said first ones of said plurality of clients to use for said second one of said plurality of validation criteria; and if said first transaction request has been validated, generating a database command that includes said first data in said one of said plurality of mandatory fields and said second default data in said second one of said plurality of mandatory fields.

18. (Currently amended) The data processing system according to claim 15 [[16]], further comprising said processing unit, responsive to execution of the set of instructions, for:

in response to receiving said first transaction request from said one of said first ones of said plurality of clients: generating an exception if said first transaction request does not include said first data, wherein said first transaction request is not validated.

19-20. (Canceled)